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EXPANDING SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN ANTARCTICA

- I. The USSR last year announced plans to expand its program of research in Antarctica. Soviet objectives are:
 - A. Eventually to displace the US as the major Antarctic power;
 - B. To strengthen Soviet rights in the sub-continent;
 - C. To secure freedom of access and neutralize claims of other nations.
 - D. Soviets clearly intend to use their expanded operations there as another demonstration of creative Soviet science.
- II. Their plans include eventually establishing three new stations in addition to two old stations being maintained this winter. (Four others are closed down during the winter.)
 - A. Pole of Inaccessability established as base for next season's ambitious tractor traverse.
 - B. New permanent station (Lazaryev) established on Queen Maude Land is operating on year-round basis.
 - C. A station at Bellingshausen in unclaimed sector expected to be set up in '60-61.
 1. This latter station could become troublesome to us as it will be first foreign encampment in unclaimed sector where US interests have been strongest.
 - D. Soviets operating 3 stations this winter; 4 others available for support and scientific work in summer.
 - E. Soviets have turned an additional station (Oazis) over to the Poles to broaden bloc presence in the area and expand membership in the Special Committee for Antarctic Research to which Poland applying for membership.

III. Two major transcontinental treks planned, first to begin October 1959 which will be calculated to out-perform the recent British effort.

A. The emphasis on scientific work in the interior is in part calculated to weaken claims of other countries which operate primarily in coastal areas.

IV. Also reflecting the attitude toward claims is the Soviet proposal for a vast international mapping program in the Antarctic.

A. Soviets have offered to map over a third of the area, suggesting use of their own aircraft operating at 50,000 feet using newly-developed aerial cameras.